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Raya cheer for Orang Asli

Hizreen Kamal

SOME 400 members of the Orang Asli community of Desa Temuan in Petaling Jaya were treated to a day of fun and entertainment at a Hari Raya gathering recently.

Organised by Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd, a member of the Emkay Group of Companies, the event brought much cheer as the wide variety of games and competitions held saw the participation of both the young and old.

Among the activities were karaoke, ketupat-weaving and blowpipe contests.

Guests were also served a sumptuous array of local delicacies like satay, rendang and ketupat.

Present at the gathering, held at Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Lanjan, were Emkay Group executive chairman Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal Abu Bakar and wife Puan Sri Wan Nong Wan Ibrahim, and its management staff and employees.

Officials from various Government agencies also attended the gathering.

Although only 30 per cent of the Orang Asli community are Muslims, all joined in the celebration.

Mustapha Kamal said the group, through Saujana Triangle, had taken the initiative to ensure that the Temuans would be comfortable with their new modern way of life.

"Today's celebration is part of our social development programme for the Temuans, to encourage them to interact with those outside their circle," he said.

In previous years, the company had organised Hari Raya, Majlis Quran and kenduri doa selamat gatherings as well as football matches for the community.

The neighbourhood comprises 147 single-storey bungalows which were handed over to the Orang Asli community by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 16 last year.

Besides the bungalows, each family was also given a double-storey terrace house in Damansara Damai, Sungai Buloh, while a group of children aged 15 and above were given an apartment each.

Each family also received Amanah Saham Bumiputera units worth RM45,000 and a monthly living allowance of RM500.

They were also provided guidelines on paying quit rent and utility bills, and maintaining cleanliness, by the Orang Asli Affairs Department. (hizreen@nstp.com.my)

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